

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/690,392

Examiner

Doug Hutton

Applicant(s)

DODGE, WILLIAM C.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Response dated 03/23/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,12 and 15-17.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

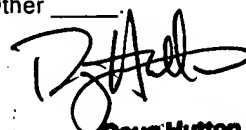
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



Doug Hutton
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2100

Applicant's Response

In Applicant's Response dated 03/23/2007, Applicant amended Claims 1 and 12, and argued against all rejections previously set forth in the Office Action dated 12/21/2006.

Based upon the claim amendments and Applicant's arguments, all rejections previously set forth are withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3, 12 and 15-17 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1 and 12:

As argued by Applicant, the prior art fails to disclose or suggest a method of creating a program management chart that:

1. displays tasks within a selected set of data (i.e., "internal" tasks); and
2. concurrently displays one or more tasks outside of the selected set of data but associated with at least one of the "internal" tasks within the selected set of data (i.e., "external" tasks),

wherein the "external" tasks are displayed **without** opening a **linked** subfolder.

The closest prior art, Microsoft Project 2000 Bible, discloses that, in order for the project management system to display “external” tasks that are related to the “internal” tasks of a user-selected subproject whenever the subproject folder is opened, a user **must link** the “external” tasks to an “internal” task within the subproject folder. That is, if a selected subproject folder is opened and the “internal” tasks of the subproject folder have **no established links** to “external” tasks, then no “external” tasks are displayed. Conversely, if a selected subproject folder is opened and the “internal” tasks of the subproject folder **have established links** to “external” tasks, then the linked “external” tasks are displayed.

As indicated in the disclosure of the present application, both “*task data*” (i.e., “internal” tasks) and “*header data*” (i.e., “external” tasks) are included in the subproject folder (see Specification – Page 10, Line 18 through Page 11, Line 7; see Figure 5). The disclosure indicates that the “*header data*” is “data that is related to tasks outside of the selected set of data but is related to the tasks within the selected set of data” (see Specification – Page 10, Lines 31-33) and “allows a representation of a task to be displayed in the program management chart without having all of the data associated with the task open” (see Specification – Page 11, Lines 1-3).

Accordingly, as defined in Claims 1 and 12, the “*selected set of data*” (Claim 1, Line 3) and the “[*accessed*] *subset of data*” (Claim 12, Line 3):

1. correspond to the user-selected **subproject folder** taught in Microsoft Project 2000 Bible; and

2. include **no** data that is ***linked*** to any other data within the project management system.

Otherwise, the present invention would not accurately be defined by Claims 1 and 12, which indicate that the project management system concurrently displays "external" tasks that are related to the "internal" tasks of the selected subfolder **without** opening a **linked** subfolder.

Stated differently, the selected subfolder of the present invention must not be "linked" in any way to any other data within the project management system. Else, the selected subfolder would be both "opened" and "linked."

Claims 3 and 15-17:

These claims are dependent upon Claims 1 and 12, and are thus allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Doug Hutton whose telephone number is 571-272-4137. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached at (571) 272-4136. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

WDH
June 8, 2007

/Doug Hutton/
Primary Examiner
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